

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A caveson comprising:

2 a noseband constructed of elasticized, resilient
3 material;

4 a jaw strap, wherein said jaw strap is attached
5 to said noseband to form a circular segment that will
6 fit around the bridge of a horse's nose, said circular
7 segment having right and left side portions which will
8 be respectively located on the right and left sides of
9 the horse's nose; and

10 a headstall having a first end and a second end,
11 wherein said first end of said headstall is attached
12 to said circular segment at said right side portion
13 and said second end of said headstall is attached to
14 said circular segment at said left side portion, said
15 headstall being arranged and configured to extend
16 behind the horse's ears when said caveson is
17 installed;

18 wherein the resilience of said noseband permits
19 movement of the horse's mouth or jaws while at the
20 same time exerting progressive and constant pressure
21 in response to movement of the horse's mouth or jaws.

1 2. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 noseband is comprised of two layers of resilient
3 material.

1 3. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 noseband is comprised of at least one layer of a woven
3 elasticized material that conforms to the shape of a
4 horse's nose at points of contact.

1 4. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 noseband has a first end and a second end and said jaw
3 strap has a first end and a second end, and wherein
4 said first end of said noseband is attached to said
5 first end of said jaw strap by stitching them
6 together, and wherein said second end of said noseband
7 is attached to said second end of said jaw strap by
8 stitching them together.

1 5. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 noseband has a first end and a second end and said jaw
3 strap has a first split end and a second split end,
4 and wherein said first end of said noseband is
5 inserted into said first split end of said jaw strap
6 and stitched together, and wherein said second end of
7 said noseband is inserted into said second split end
8 of said jaw strap and stitched together.

1 6. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said jaw
2 strap comprises an adjustment mechanism for varying
3 the length of said jaw strap, thereby permitting the
4 size of said circular segment to be adjusted depending

5 on the desired amount of pressure to be applied to the
6 horse's nose.

1 7. A caveson as defined in Claim 6, wherein said jaw
2 strap comprises a first segment and second segment,
3 said first segment having a buckle, and said second
4 segment having a plurality of apertures for receiving
5 said buckle to vary the length of said jaw strap,
6 thereby permitting the size of said circular segment
7 to be adjusted to vary the amount of pressure to be
8 applied to the horse's nose.

1 8. A caveson as defined in Claim 6, wherein said jaw
2 strap comprises a first segment and second segment,
3 said first segment having a friction buckle that will
4 receive said second segment to allow the length of
5 said jaw strap to be varied, thereby permitting the
6 size of said circular segment to be adjusted to vary
7 the amount of pressure to be applied to the horse's
8 nose.

1 9. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said jaw
2 strap is constructed at least in part of a resilient
3 material.

1 10. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 headstall is constructed at least in part of a
3 resilient material.

1 11. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 headstall comprises at least one adjustment mechanism
3 for adjusting the size of said headstall.

1 12. A caveson as defined in Claim 11, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 13. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 headstall has a first end and a second end, wherein
3 said first end of said headstall is attached to said
4 circular segment by inserting said first end of said
5 headstall into a first aperture located on said right
6 side portion of said circular segment and stitching
7 said first end of said headstall over onto itself, and
8 said second end of said headstall is attached to said
9 circular segment by inserting said second end of said
10 headstall into a second aperture located on said left
11 side portion of said circular segment and stitching
12 said second end of said headstall over onto itself.

1 14. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 headstall has a first end and a second end, wherein
3 said first end of said headstall is attached to said
4 circular segment by stitching said first end of said
5 headstall directly to said circular segment on said
6 right side portion of said circular segment, and said
7 second end of said headstall is attached to said

8 circular segment by stitching said second end of said
9 headstall directly to said circular segment on said
10 left side portion of said circular segment.

1 15. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, said caveson
2 further comprising:

3 a crown piece having a first end and a second
4 end, wherein said first end of said crown piece is
5 attached to said headstall at a first location which
6 will be located on the right side of the horse's head
7 and said second end of said crown piece is attached to
8 said headstall which will be located at a second
9 location on the left side of the horse's head so that
10 said crown piece runs across the forehead of the
11 horse.

1 16. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, wherein said
2 crown piece is constructed at least in part of a
3 resilient material.

1 17. A caveson as defined in Claim 1, said caveson
2 further comprising:

3 a second circular segment, wherein said second
4 circular segment is attached to said noseband at a
5 point at the bridge of said horse's nose and encircles
6 said horse's jaw when said caveson is installed
7 thereupon.

1 18. A caveson as defined in Claim 17, wherein said
2 second circular segment is constructed at least in
3 part of one or more layers of a resilient material.

1 19. A caveson as defined in Claim 17, wherein said
2 second circular segment has first and second ends and
3 is attached to said noseband by a connecting segment,
4 wherein said connecting segment is attached to said
5 noseband and forms a loop in which said first end of
6 said second circular segment is fed through said loop
7 and said ends of said second circular segment are
8 joined together.

1 20. A caveson as defined in Claim 17, wherein said
2 second circular segment comprises at least one
3 adjustment mechanism for adjusting the size of said
4 second circular segment.

1 21. A caveson as defined in Claim 17, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 22. A caveson comprising:

2 a noseband constructed of two layers of a
3 resilient material, said noseband having a first end
4 and a second end;

5 a jaw strap, said jaw strap having a first split
6 end and a second split end, wherein said first end of
7 said noseband is inserted into said first split end of

8 said jaw strap and permanently joined together and
9 said second end of said noseband is inserted into said
10 second split end of said jaw strap and permanently
11 joined together, forming a circular segment that will
12 fit around the bridge of a horse's nose, said circular
13 segment having right and left side portions which will
14 be respectively located on the right and left sides of
15 the horse's nose;

16 a first adjustment mechanism located within said
17 jaw strap for adjusting the size of said circular
18 segment;

19 a headstall having a first end and a second end,
20 wherein said first end of said headstall is attached
21 to said circular segment at said right side portion
22 and said second end of said headstall is attached to
23 said circular segment at said left side portion, said
24 headstall being arranged and configured to extend
25 behind the horse's ears; and

26 a second adjustment mechanism located within said
27 headstall for adjusting the size of said headstall to
28 fit a particular horse.

1 23. A caveson comprising:

2 an elasticized, resilient noseband having a first
3 end and a second end;

4 a jaw strap having a first and a second end
5 wherein said first end of said noseband is permanently
6 attached to said first end of said jaw strap and said
7 second end of said noseband is permanently attached to
8 said second end of said jaw strap forming a circular
9 segment; and

10 a headstall having a first end and a second end,
11 wherein said first end is attached to said circular
12 segment at one side thereof and said second end is
13 attached to said circular segment at an opposite side
14 thereof, said headstall being arranged and configured
15 to extend behind the horse's ears;

16 wherein the resilience of said noseband permits
17 movement of the horse's mouth or jaws while at the
18 same time exerting progressive and constant pressure
19 in response to movement of the horse's mouth or jaws.

1 24. A caveson as defined in Claim 22, wherein said
2 jaw strap comprises at least one layer of resilient
3 material.

1 25. A caveson as defined in Claim 22, wherein said
2 resilient noseband is constructed of two layers of
3 resilient material.

1 26. A caveson as defined in Claim 22, wherein said
2 jaw strap comprises an adjustment mechanism for

3 varying the size of said jaw strap to allow said
4 circular segment to be adjusted.

1 27. A caveson as defined in Claim 22, wherein said
2 headstall comprises at least one layer of resilient
3 material.

1 28. A caveson as defined in Claim 22, wherein said
2 headstall comprises an adjustment mechanism for
3 adjusting the size of said headstall.

1 29. A caveson comprising:

2 a circular segment for encircling the nose of a
3 horse when said caveson is installed, said circular
4 segment being made at least in part of an elastic,
5 stretchable material to exert resistance when the
6 horse attempts to open its mouth; and

7 a headstall having a first and second ends which
8 are respectively attached to said circular segment at
9 opposite sides thereof, said headstall being arranged
10 and configured to extend behind the horse's ears to
11 retain said circular segment on the horse's nose;
12 wherein the elasticity of said circular segment
13 permits movement of the horse's mouth or jaws while
14 concurrently exerting progressive and constant
15 pressure in response to movement of the horse's mouth
16 or jaws.

1 30. A method of making a caveson, comprising:
2 providing a noseband of an elasticized, resilient
3 material, said noseband having first and second ends;
4 attaching first and second ends of a jaw strap to
5 said first and second ends of said noseband,
6 respectively, to form a circular segment that will fit
7 around the bridge of the nose of a horse when said
8 caveson is installed, said jaw strap having a first
9 adjustment mechanism which allows the size of said jaw
10 strap to be adjusted;
11 attaching a first end of a headstall having first
12 and second ends to said circular segment at a first
13 location and attaching said second end of said
14 headstall to said circular segment at a second,
15 opposite location; and
16 installing a second adjustment mechanism in said
17 headstall for adjusting the size of said headstall;
18 wherein the resilience of said noseband permits
19 movement of the horse's mouth or jaws while
20 concurrently exerting progressive and constant
21 pressure in response to movement of the horse's mouth
22 or jaws.

1 31. A caveson comprising:
2 a circular segment for encircling a horse's
3 muzzle when said caveson is installed, said circular

4 segment having upper and lower hemispherical portions,
5 wherein at least one of said upper and lower
6 hemispherical portions of said circular segment is
7 constructed at least in part of an elasticized,
8 resilient material, the elasticity of said circular
9 segment permitting limited movement of the horse's
10 mouth or jaws while concurrently exerting progressive
11 and constant pressure in response to movement of the
12 horse's mouth or jaws;

13 a headstall having a first end and a second end,
14 wherein said first end of said headstall is attached
15 to said circular segment at a first location which
16 will be located on the right side of the horse's
17 muzzle and said second end of said headstall is
18 attached said circular segment at a second location
19 which will be located on the left side of the horse's
20 muzzle.

1 32. A caveson as defined in Claim 31, wherein said
2 elasticized, resilient material is at least one layer
3 of elasticized fabric.

1 33. A caveson as defined in Claim 31, wherein said
2 resilient material is at least one layer of rubber.

1 34. A caveson as defined in Claim 31, wherein said
2 circular segment further comprises at least one

3 adjustment mechanism for varying the size of said
4 circular segment depending on the amount of pressure
5 to be applied to the horse's nose.

1 35. A caveson as defined in Claim 32, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 36. A caveson as defined in Claim 31, wherein said
2 headstall further comprises at least one adjustment
3 mechanism for adjusting the size of said headstall.

1 37. A caveson as defined in Claim 34, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 38. A caveson as defined in Claim 31, wherein said
2 first end of said headstall is attached to said first
3 location on said circular segment by stitching and
4 said second end of said headstall is attached to said
5 second, opposite location by stitching.

1 39. A caveson comprising:
2 a circular segment for encircling a horse's nose
3 and jaw when said caveson is installed on a horse's
4 head, said circular segment having right and left said
5 portions and at least one elasticized, resilient
6 portion, wherein said elasticized, resilient portion
7 of said circular segment permits limited movement of
8 the horse's mouth or jaws while at the same time

9 exerting progressive and constant pressure on the
10 horse's nose without completely restricting movement
11 of the horse's jaw; and
12 a headstall having a first end and a second end,
13 wherein said first end of said headstall is attached
14 to said circular segment at said right side portion
15 and said second end of said headstall is attached to
16 said circular segment at said left side portion, said
17 headstall being arranged and configured to extend
18 behind the horse's ears when said caveson is
19 installed.

1 40. A caveson as defined in Claim 39, wherein said
2 resilient portion is constructed of at least one layer
3 of elasticized fabric.

1 41. A caveson as defined in Claim 39, wherein said
2 resilient portion is constructed of at least one layer
3 of rubber.

1 42. A caveson as defined in Claim 39, wherein said
2 circular segment further comprises at least one
3 adjustment mechanism for varying the size of said
4 circular segment depending on the amount of pressure
5 to be applied to the horse's nose.

1 43. A caveson as defined in Claim 42, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 44. A caveson as defined in Claim 39, wherein said
2 headstall further comprises at least one adjustment
3 mechanism for adjusting the size of said headstall.

1 45. A caveson as defined in Claim 44, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 46. A caveson as defined in Claim 39, further
2 comprising:

3 a crown piece having a first end and a second
4 end, wherein said first end of said crown piece is
5 attached to said headstall at a first location which
6 will be located on the right side of the horse's head
7 and said second end of said crown piece is attached to
8 said headstall which will be located at a second
9 location on the left side of the horse's head so that
10 said crown piece runs across the forehead of the
11 horse.

1 47. A caveson as defined in Claim 46, wherein said
2 crown piece is constructed at least in part of a
3 resilient material.

1 48. A caveson comprising:

2 a circular segment for encircling a muzzle of an
3 animal, said circular segment including at least one
4 resilient section, wherein said at least one resilient
5 section of said circular segment is constructed at

6 least in part of an elastic material, wherein said at
7 least one resilient section of said circular segment
8 permits said circular segment to yield when the animal
9 attempts to open its mouth while at the same time
10 providing progressive and constant resistance to the
11 animal opening its mouth or jaws in response to
12 movement of the horse's mouth or jaws; and

13 a headstall having a first and second ends which
14 are respectively attached to said circular segment at
15 opposite sides thereof, said headstall being arranged
16 and configured to extend behind the animal's ears to
17 retain said circular segment on the animal's nose.

1 49. A caveson as defined in Claim 48, wherein said
2 resilient section is constructed of at least one layer
3 of elasticized fabric.

1 50. A caveson as defined in Claim 48, wherein said
2 resilient section is constructed of at least one layer
3 of rubber.

1 51. A caveson as defined in Claim 48, wherein said
2 circular segment further comprises at least one
3 adjustment mechanism for varying the size of said
4 circular segment depending on the amount of resistance
5 to be exerted by said circular segment on the animal's
6 muzzle.

1 52. A caveson as defined in Claim 51, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 53. A caveson as defined in Claim 48, wherein said
2 headstall further comprises at least one adjustment
3 mechanism for adjusting the size of said headstall.

1 54. A caveson as defined in Claim 53, wherein said
2 adjustment mechanism comprises a buckle.

1 55. A caveson comprising:
2 a noseband portion constructed at least in part
3 of an elasticized, resilient material;
4 a jaw strap portion constructed at least in part
5 of resilient material, wherein said jaw strap is
6 attached to said noseband to form a circular segment
7 for encircling a horse's muzzle, said circular segment
8 having right and left side portions which will be
9 respectively located on the right and left sides of
10 the horse's muzzle, the elasticity of said circular
11 segment permitting movement of the horse's mouth or
12 jaws while at the same time exerting progressive and
13 constant pressure in response to movement of the
14 horse's mouth or jaws; and
15 a headstall constructed at least in part of an
16 elastic material, said headstall having a first end
17 and a second end;

18 wherein said first end of said headstall is attached
19 to said circular segment at said right side portion
20 and said second end of said headstall is attached to
21 said circular segment at said left side portion, said
22 headstall being arranged and configured to extend
23 behind the horse's ears when said caveson is
24 installed.

1 56. A caveson as defined in Claim 55, wherein said
2 noseband portion, said jaw strap portion and said
3 headstall are constructed of at least one layer of
4 elasticized fabric.

1 57. A caveson as defined in Claim 55, wherein said
2 noseband portion, said jaw strap portion and said
3 headstall are constructed of at least one layer of
4 rubber.